

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cellular cushioning article comprising:

(A) a first multilayer film having first and second outer layers each of which contains an olefin-based polymer, and an inner O₂-barrier layer; and

(B) a second multilayer film having first and second outer layers each of which contains an olefin-based polymer, and an inner O₂-barrier layer;

wherein at least the inner O₂-barrier layer of the first multilayer film, or the inner O₂-barrier layer of the second multilayer film, comprises recycled polyester, and the first multilayer film is laminated to the second multilayer film so that a plurality of cells are formed between the first multilayer film and the second multilayer film.

2. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 1, wherein both the first inner O₂-barrier layer and the second inner O₂-barrier layer comprise recycled polyester.

3. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 1, wherein:

(A) the outer layers of the first film each comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, very low density polyethylene, and homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer; and

(B) the outer layers of the second film each comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, linear low density

polyethylene, very low density polyethylene, and homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer.

4. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 3, wherein:

(A) the first film further comprises a first tie layer between the first outer layer and the O₂-barrier layer, and a second tie layer between the second outer layer and the O₂-barrier layer; and

(B) the second film further comprises a third tie layer between the first outer layer and the O₂-barrier layer, and a fourth tie layer between the second outer layer and the O₂-barrier layer.

5. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 4, wherein:

the first tie layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of anhydride-modified ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, and ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer;

the second tie layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of anhydride-modified ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, and ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer;

the third tie layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of anhydride-modified ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, and ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer; and

the fourth tie layer comprises at least one member selected from the group

consisting of anhydride-modified ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, and ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer.

6. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 1, wherein the first multilayer film is a flat, unformed film and the second multilayer film is a flat, unformed film.

7. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 6, wherein the first and second films are sealed to one another to form a plurality of cell series, each of the cell series containing a plurality of cells and a passageway connecting the cells to one another in series, the series having a dead-end, the passageway and cells in the series being inflated by an inflation fluid, with the passageway being sealed shut so that the cells in the series remain inflated.

8. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of discrete cavities have been formed into the first film at spaced intervals having a ground region therebetween, and the second film is a flat film adhered to the first film in the ground region, with the first and second films encapsulating a fluid within each of the discrete cavities.

9. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of discrete cavities are formed at spaced intervals into both the first film and the second film, each of the films having a ground region between the discrete cavities, with at least a portion of the ground regions of the films being adhered to one another, with the

cavities of the first and second films containing a fluid therewithin.

10. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 1, wherein the O₂-barrier layer comprises a blend of recycled polyethylene terephthalate and virgin polyethylene terephthalate.

11. The cellular cushioning article according to Claim 1, wherein the first film has a thickness of from about 0.2 to 10 mils, and the second film has a thickness of from about 0.2 to 10 mils.

12. A process for making a cushioning article, comprising the steps of:

- (A) extruding a first multilayer film having first and second outer layers each of which contains an olefin-based polymer, and an inner O₂-barrier layer; and
- (B) extruding a second multilayer film having first and second outer layers each of which contains an olefin-based polymer, and an inner O₂-barrier layer; and
- (C) adhering the first and second multilayer films to one another so that a plurality of cells are formed; and

wherein the inner O₂-barrier layer of the first multilayer film, or the inner O₂-barrier layer of the second multilayer film, contain recycled polyester.

13. The process according to Claim 12, further comprising forming a plurality of discrete cavities into the first film at spaced intervals having a ground region therebetween, the forming being carried out after extruding the first multilayer film but

before adhering the first multilayer film to the second multilayer film, with the ground region of the first film being adhered to the second film, so that upon adhering the first and second multilayer films to one another, the first and second films together encapsulate a fluid within the each of the discrete cavities.

14. The process according to Claim 13, wherein the forming is carried out by passing the film over a forming roller which draws discrete regions of the film into forming cavities by evacuating atmosphere from regions between the film and the forming cavity.

15. The process according to Claim 13, wherein the fluid is air.

16. The process according to Claim 12, further comprising forming a plurality of discrete cavities into both the first multilayer film and the second multilayer film, the plurality of discrete cavities being at spaced intervals having a ground region therebetween, the forming being carried out after extruding the first and second multilayer films but before adhering the first multilayer film to the second multilayer film, with the ground region of the first film being adhered to the ground region of the second film, so that upon adhering the first and second multilayer films to one another, the first and second films together encapsulate a fluid within the each of the discrete cavities.

17. The process according to Claim 16, wherein the fluid is air.

18. The process according to Claim 16 wherein the ground region of the first film

is heat sealed to the ground region of the second film.

19. The process according to Claim 13 wherein the first and second films are heat sealed to one another to form an inflatable cushioning article having a series of cells, each of the series of cells containing a plurality of cells and a passageway connecting the cells to one another, each series of cells having a dead-end, the passageway and cells in the series being capable of being inflated by an inflation fluid, with the passageway being capable of being sealed shut so that the cells in each of the series can remain inflated.

20. The process according to Claim 19, wherein the inflatable cushioning article has an open skirt along one machine-direction edge.